

# H2Only

The Sediment Solution

## **Team Members**

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## **Client**

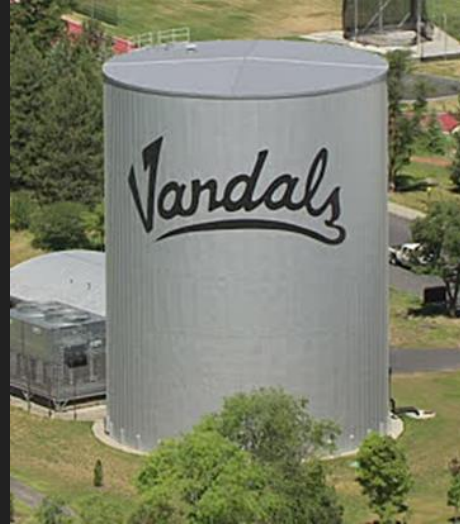
Scott Smith

## **Sponsor**

University of  
Idaho Facilities

# Problem Statement

The floor of the University of Idaho's chilled water tower accumulates sediment as the water lies stagnant. The current method of sediment removal is very expensive and stops operation of the tank.



# Current Sediment Removal Process

Scuba diver inspection

2.5 million gallons drained

Sediment vacuumed out

Tank recharged  
With Scuba - \$231,382

In house - \$208,382



# Full Scale Specifications

Remove 95% of sediment each time system operates

Continue tank operation while cleaning

External sediment separation and recycle of clean water

Low level of necessary maintenance

Fully automated operation

# Prototype Specifications

Scalable to full scale dimensions

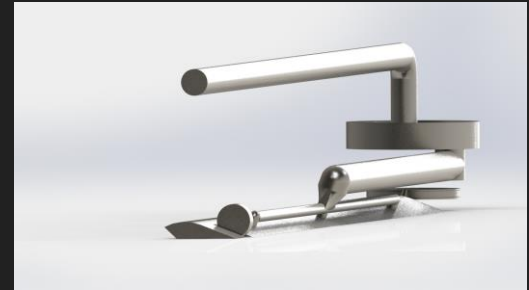
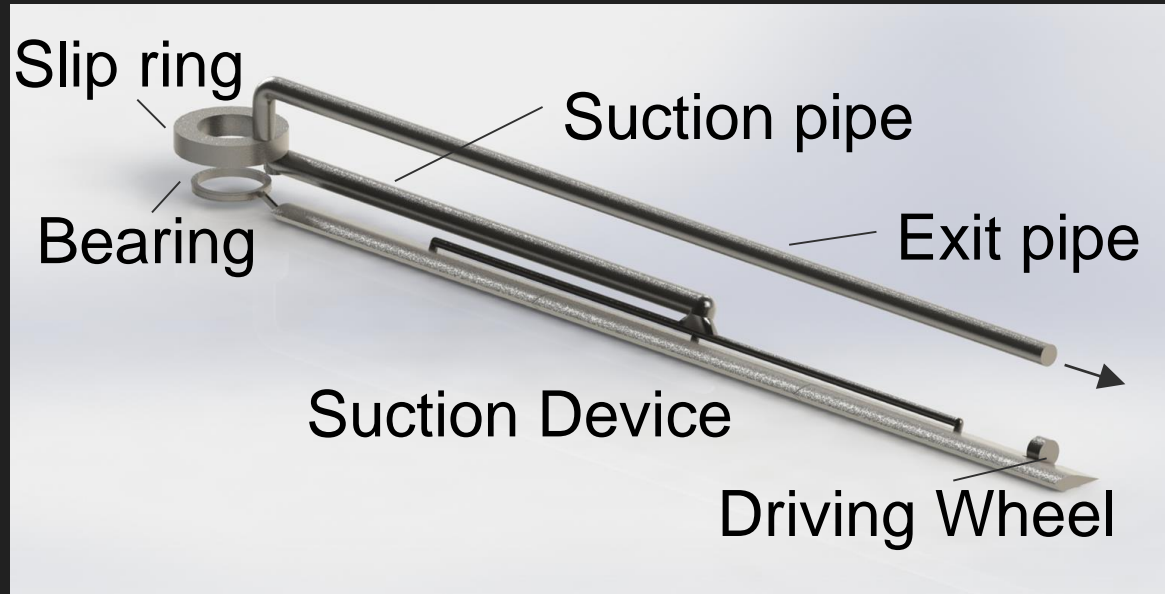
Avoid resuspension

Evenly distributed suction through slit

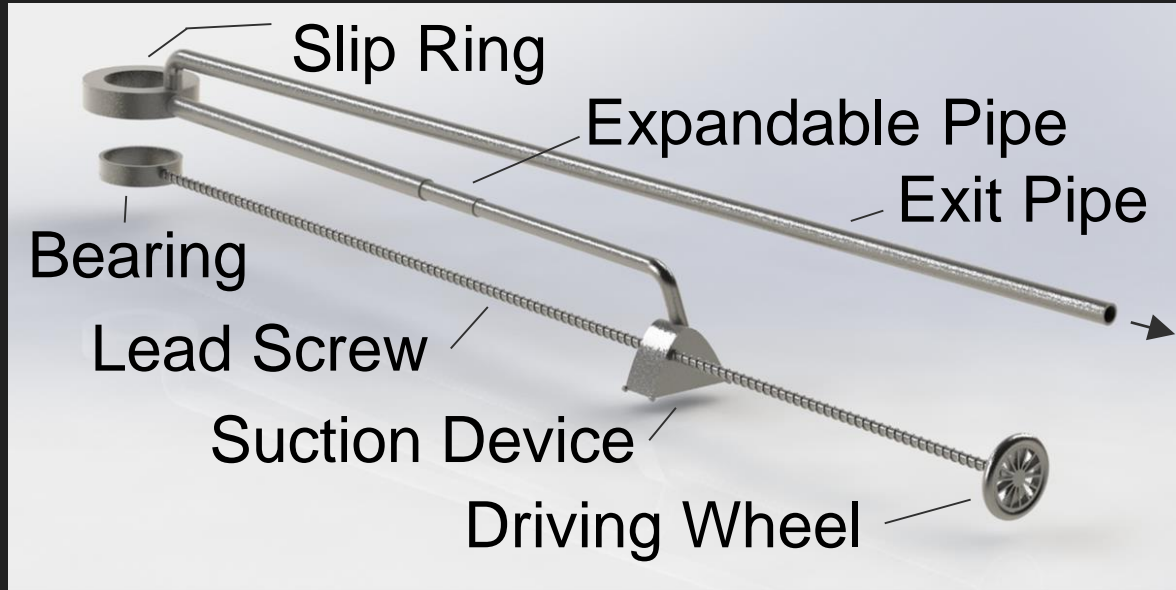
Demonstrate proof of concept



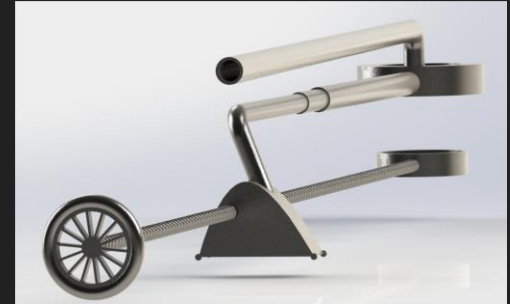
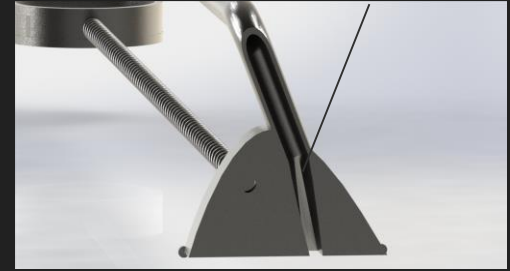
# Sweeping Suction Design



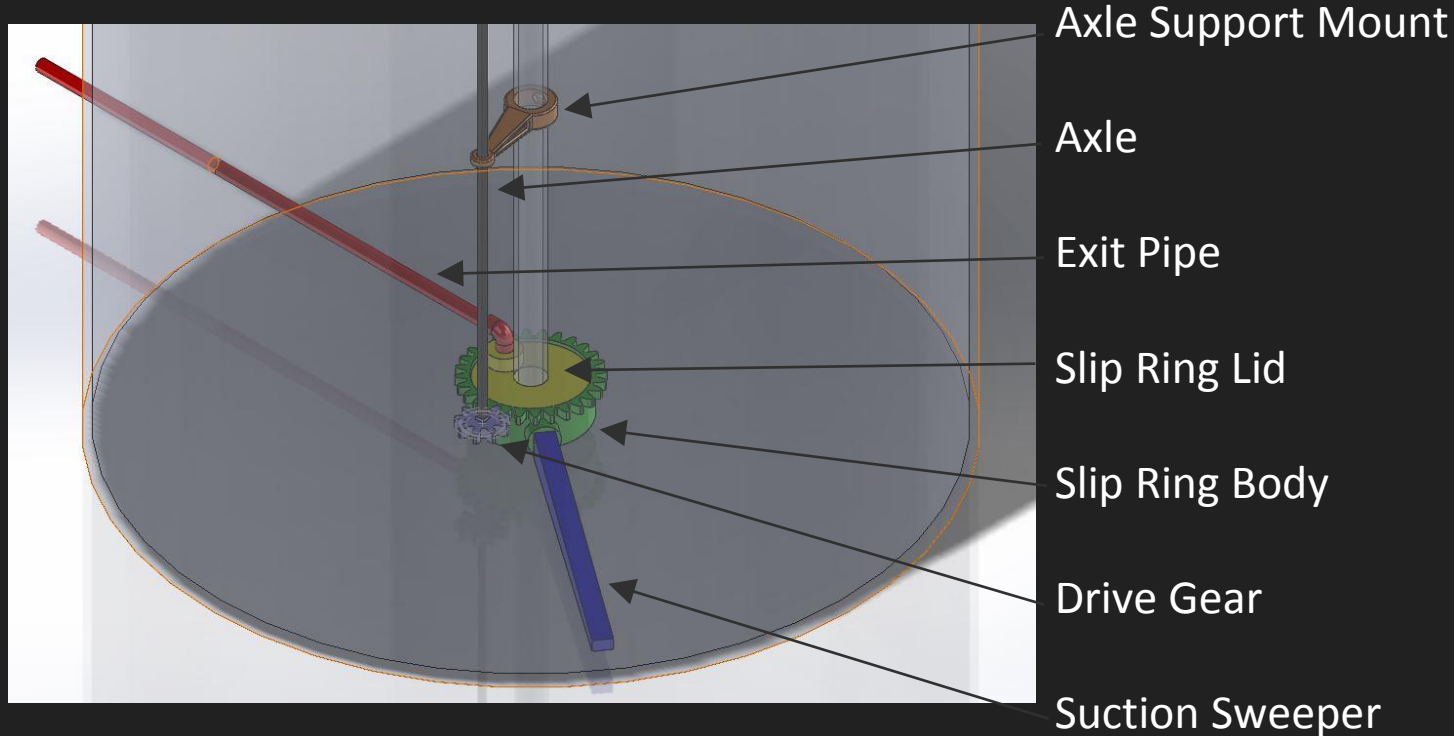
# Lead Screw Design



Suction Slit



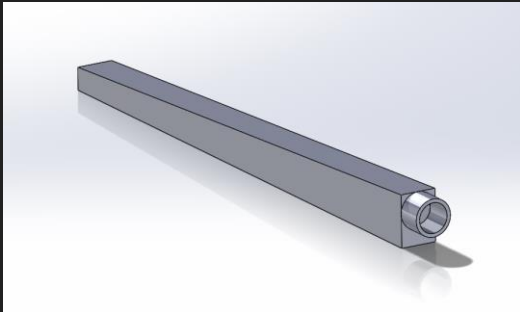
# Final Design and 3D Printed Prototype



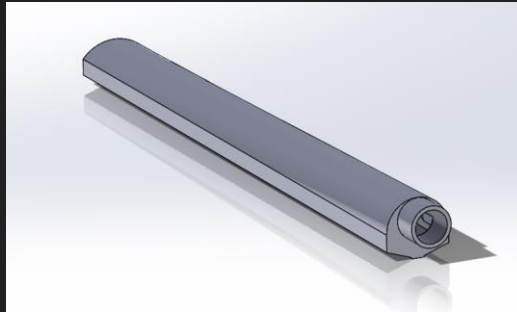


# Sweeper Arm Profiles

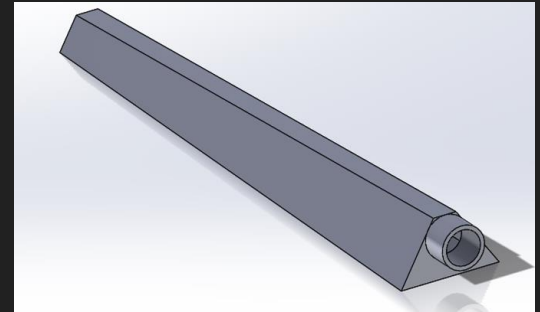
Design 1



Design 2



Design 3



# Experiment Setup

PVC pipe to block light, graduated cylinder holder inside

Lux meter reading of clear water

Lux meter reading before cleaning cycle

Lux meter reading after cleaning cycle

Varying rotational speed and sweeper profile



# Results

Design 2 worked the best due to its tapered bottom

The best rotational speed was 0.42 rpm

Majority of sediment was removed by each design

Some clogging occurred from larger particles



# Suggestions for Full Scale

Use power from the head to drive the wheel (ie flow against blades)

If using electric motor, install motor on tip of sweeper

Use tapered bottom on sweeper to avoid “shoveling” sediment

Utilize centrifugal hydrodynamics or evaporation to separate sediment

Linearly decrease cross sectional area of sweeper from pivot to tip

A conceptual image featuring a lightbulb with a human face inside, set against a dark background with several question marks. The lightbulb is the central focus, with its filament visible. The face inside is a simple, glowing outline. The question marks are scattered around the lightbulb, some large and some small, creating a sense of inquiry and thought.

# Questions?